

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 12580 101431Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----060269 101930Z /41

R 101420Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8947  
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 12580

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ENRG, EG, IS  
SUBJ: OIL EXPLORATION IN SINAI - GULF OIL ACTIVITY IN  
- BUFFER ZONE (BZ)

REF: (A) USUN 1359, (B) STATE 69195, (C) CAIRO 06849,  
- (D) STATE 097148, (E) TEL AVIV 5102

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED UN POSITION ON ACCESS TO BUFFER ZONE AS DESCRIBED REFTEL A WITH GULF MANAGER KONTZ AT RECENT CHANCE MEETING DURING SOCIAL EVENT. KONTZ, ANXIOUS HAVE WORD ON OUR QUERY TO DEPARTMENT RE ACCESS TO BZ, THANKED US FOR LATEST THINKING ON DELICATE SUBJECT. NOTING AGAIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN UN AND EGYPTIAN POSITIONS, EMBOFF ASKED IF GULF HAD RECEIVED ANY FURTHER INDICATION OF GOE PRESSURE FOR EXPLORATION IN BUFFER ZONE. KONTZ RESPONDED THAT DISCUSSIONS REGARDING GULF'S EXPLORATION COMMITMENT WERE CONTINUING WITH EGPC AND THAT OUTCOME WOULD PROBABLY BE A FORCE MAJEURE DETERMINATION IN FAVOR OF GULF PERTAINING TO EASTERN THIRD OF SINAI CONCESSION. HE DID REPORT CONTINUING ACTIVITY IN NORTHERN BUFFER ZONE, SAYING EGYPTIAN TRAFFIC LOADED WITH CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS HAD  
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INCREASED SINCE HE FIRST MADE HIS APPROACH TO US AND ALSO THAT WORK ON "PIPELINE", PRESUMABLY TO SUPPLY WATER FOR BEDOUIN SETTLEMENTS, ALSO PROCEEDING.

2. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL GULF DID NOT AT OUTSET NEGOTIATE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR ITS SINAI CONCESSION. COMPANY ACCEPTED ORIGINAL EGPC ASSURANCES, BASED ON MFA

LEGAL POSITION, THAT SINAI BZ ACREAGE WOULD BE AVAILABLE.  
HENCE GULF NEEDS NOW TO INVOKE FORCE MAJEURE CLAUSE WITH  
RESPECT TO WAIVING OBLIGATION TO COMPLETE SEISMIC WORK IN  
THAT AREA. WHILE EGPC ALMOST CERTAINLY UNDERSTANDS  
DESIRABILITY OF LETTING GULF OFF THE HOOK, WE WONDER IF  
OTHER GOE AGENCIES CONCERNED (MFA FOR EXAMPLE, WILL BE AS  
WILLING TO SWEEP THIS ONE UNDER THE RUG AND ADMIT FACT  
THAT OIL EXPLORATION IN BZ IS ISSUE WHICH EVIDENTLY NEEDS  
BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH GOE. EILTS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Expiration:**  
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**Reference:** 78 USUN NEW YORK 1359, 78 STATE 69195, 78 CAIRO 6849  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Subject:** OIL EXPLORATION IN SINAI - GULF OIL ACTIVITY IN - BUFFER ZONE (BZ)  
**TAGS:** ENRG, PORG, EG, IS, UN, GULF OIL  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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